

REMARKS

Claims 26-32 and 52-58 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 26-27, 29 and 31 are amended and claims 52-58 are added. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 1-25 and 33-51 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration based on the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 26, 31 and 32 recite allowable subject matter.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 23, 24, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hornung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,722,021). The Office Action rejects claims 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Noda (U.S. Patent No. 4,890,306). Claims 39-41, 43, 48 and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hornung et al. Claims 29, 30 and 44-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hornung et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, in light of the indication in the Office Action that claims 26, 31 and 32 recited allowable subject matter as previously presented, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 26 and 31 and claims depending therefrom are allowable as amended over the asserted art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John A. Radi
Registration No. 59,345

JAO:RAC/axl

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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